UCSF
Newsbreak

News for the UCSF Campus Community

VOL. 12, NO. 10 MAY 24, 1997

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Debas gives more merger details

Responding to a call for more details on the UCSF Stanford merger, Haile Debas, dean of the School of Medicine, has written a letter to faculty defining the goals and mission of UCSF Stanford Health Care (USHC) in an attempt to allay concerns.

"UCSF Stanford Health Care has been described as a runaway, secretive, private corporation whose sole purpose is profit-making at the expense of the academic mission of UCSF and Stanford. This is inexplicable to me — why would two preeminent academic institutions create such a monster? The answer, of course, is that they have done no such thing," Debas stated in the May 15 letter (available at www.som.ucsf.edu/dean/facultyletter.html).

In fact, Debas points out, the purpose statement in the affiliation agreements states, "The specific and primary purpose of USHC is to support, benefit and further the charitable, scientific and educational purposes of the School of Medicine at UCSF and the School of Medicine at Stanford University."

Debas answered questions raised at the May 5 special meeting of the Academic Senate, when faculty called to hear a "balanced presentation of the pros and cons" of the clinical merger. Debas said it became clear to him at that meeting that there is a "considerable gap" between what the administration believes it has communicated and what the faculty have heard.

Indeed, a few faculty members passed a resolution asking for clear specification of how faculty will participate in policy and decision making in USHC. Lee Goldman will serve a three-year term as the first faculty representative appointed to the USHC board. The plan is to develop a way to elect this faculty representative in the future.

Faculty also asked that pertinent documents be distributed to members before they meet again to discuss the merger. Last week, 20 copies of a draft of UCSF Stanford merger agreements was made available at the UCSF Library Reserve Desk. Included in the inch-thick document are a professional services agreement between USHC and the UC Regents and affiliation agreements with the UCSF schools.

In other news, USHC, UC and Stanford officials are working with legislators to develop a plan to guarantee assurance of maximum public accountability while preserving the privacy necessary to do business in the intensely competitive health care marketplace. (See story page 8.)

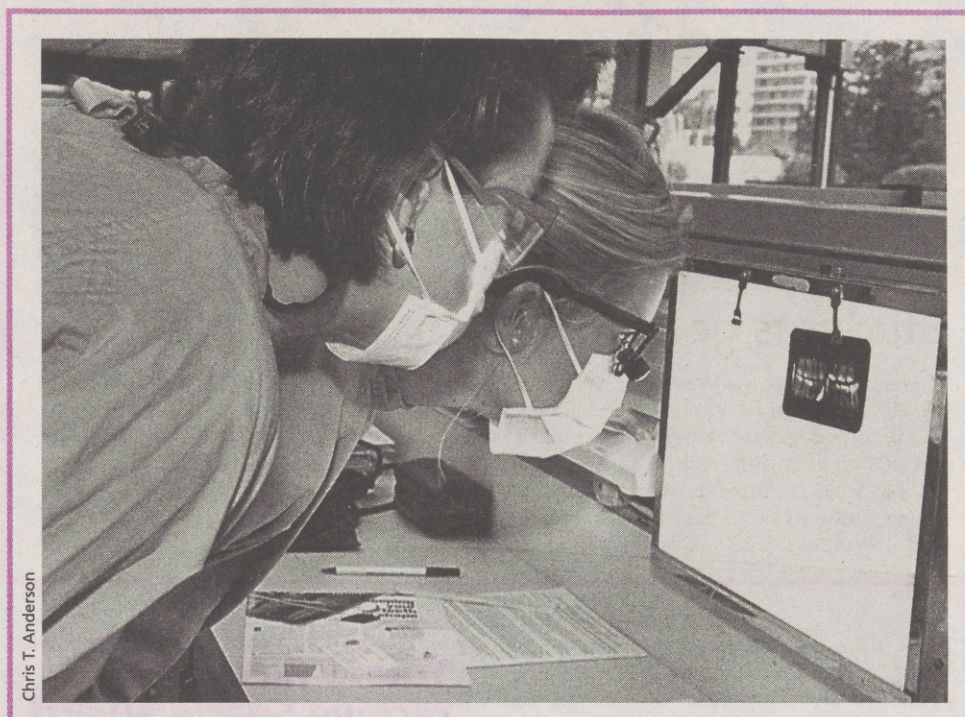
Academic Senate to meet on merger

Academic Senate chair William Wara announced Monday plans to hold two special meetings — ideally by the end of June — to delve into the economic and academic implications of the UCSF Stanford merger.

Wara appointed two five-member ad hoc committees, made up of faculty representing diverse views, to come up with agendas for these special meetings by June 13.

"I tried to appoint the most vocal persons who represent both sides of the issue to tell us what they want," he said.

Wara said he is pleased that more information about the merger has been made public since the May 5 special meeting of the Academic Senate.



Chris T. Anderson

Students prepare for exams at screenings

Fourth-year dental students Yolanda Mangrum, left, and Andrea Peterson work as a team examining an X-ray as they prepare for the state board exams next month during a recent dental screening. Other free screenings are planned for 5:30-7 p.m. on May 27, June 2, 3 and 10 at the UCSF dental clinic, 707 Parnassus. Call 476-9600.

Medical schools slow to respond to workforce demands, study says

By REBECCA HIGBEE

California's medical schools and residency programs must reduce the number of specialists currently trained by at least 25 percent to match the state's changing need for physicians, UCSF researchers say.

"For more than 15 years, health care experts have sounded an alarm about the impending oversupply of physicians, particularly specialists," says lead author Janet Coffman, associate director of workforce policy and analysis at UCSF's Center for the Health Professions. "Medical schools and residency programs have been slow to respond to these warnings, and now many parts of the state have a serious over-supply of specialists."

The Bay Area has the highest concentration of specialists — an excess supply of 50 to 85 percent.

The University of California — which trains about half of the state's doctors — has developed a plan that calls for a 19 percent reduction in UC specialist residents by the year 2002. But researchers say these proposed reductions are "inadequate" because an immediate 25 percent reduction is necessary to bring supply in line with requirements by the year 2020.

Federal and state governments spend significant public dollars to educate and train an excess of physicians, adds co-author Kevin Grumbach, director of research for the UCSF Center. "A glut of specialist physicians has contributed to the high costs of health care," he says. "California is now over-saturated with specialists. It just doesn't make sense to invest 10 or more years of medical education to train a specialist who is not needed and who will not be able to find work in the state."

By the year 2010, the state will have 37 percent more physicians than necessary if the population growth rate continues to slow, researchers say.

The researchers also point to a serious shortage of Latino and African-American physicians and recommend boosting enrollment of underrepresented minorities. From 1995 to 1996, enrollment of minorities among entering students decreased by 20 percent in UC medical schools and by 16 percent in the state's private medical schools. Proposition 209 and the 1995 decision of the UC Regents to end affirmative action threaten recent progress in this area, researchers say.

"Unless we make great strides in correcting the imbalance between the racial/ethnic makeup of physicians as compared to the general California population, underrepresentation will only worsen — especially among Latinos, the fastest growing population and the least-represented among physicians in the state," Grumbach says.

In their report, titled "California Needs Better Medicine: Too Many Specialists, Too Little Diversity, Poor Distribution," researchers recommend other steps to better address physician supply and demand.

- Freeze medical school enrollment at the current level.
- Maintain efforts to encourage medical students to pursue generalist careers. About 400 California medical school graduates enter generalist training programs each year, although 1,117 first-year generalist positions are available.
- Maintain the number of generalist positions at the current level, and provide adequate resources to support these positions. The future need for generalist physicians is unclear in light of the changing health care marketplace. Advanced practice nurses, physician assistants and other non-physician providers may be used more extensively in the future to provide medical services, dropping demand for generalist physicians.
- Expand opportunities for medical education in underserved areas. Many physicians choose to practice in the communities where they train, particularly where they complete residency training.
- Establish ways to implement recommendations on a statewide basis.

UCSF will expand to Mission Bay

By BILL GORDON

The UC Board of Regents approved the Mission Bay site in San Francisco as the location of UCSF's next major campus.

UCSF plans to develop 2.65 million square feet of biomedical laboratory space and other instructional and support facilities at the new site, located north of 16th Street between Third and Owens streets.

"We began our long range planning effort nearly seven years ago with a commitment to work with the community to develop a plan that benefits the campus, our neighbors, and the entire Bay Area. The selection of Mission Bay as our major expansion site accomplishes all of our goals," said Bruce W. Spaulding, UCSF vice chancellor for advancement and planning.

Owned by the Catellus Development Corporation, Mission Bay encompasses about 313 acres of mostly vacant railyards. Catellus and the City and County of San Francisco agreed to donate the 43 acres of land at Mission Bay that make up the UCSF site.

UCSF expects to return to the Regents in a few months to present a plan for developing the first building at the new site. The campus is working on the development plan in cooperation with the Bay Area Life Sciences Alliance (BALSA), a not-for-profit public benefit corporation established to support development of life sciences and biotechnology facilities in the Bay Area.

UCSF's new Long Range Development Plan, approved by the Regents in January, outlines physical growth expect-

(See **Mission Bay** on page 3)

Researchers find key to language disorder

By JEFFREY NORRIS

A startling new finding made by UCSF researchers strengthens evidence that a disorder which prevents millions of children in the US from keeping up in the classroom stems from an inability to process sound normally — not from problems that originate primarily in higher brain regions as many other scientists had earlier proposed.

The discovery, reported in the May 8 issue of the scientific journal Nature, holds the key to easier diagnosis of the disorder, called specific language impairment, researchers say. The finding already is being incorporated into the design of new training programs to improve language-learning skills in language-impaired children.

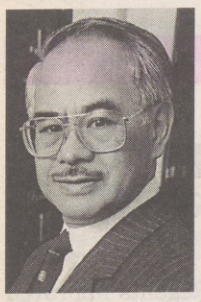
Children with specific language impairment fall behind in language skills despite normal intelligence and apparently normal hearing. The source of the problem has been poorly understood, and standard speech therapy techniques used to treat the disorder have proved unsatisfactory.

Researchers found that children with specific language impairment are affected much more profoundly than unimpaired children by a phenomenon known as "masking." Masking refers to a natural limitation in the human ability to detect any particular sound that is presented simultaneously or within a small fraction of a second of other "mask-

(See **Language** on page 3)

Lim wins School of Medicine alumnus of the year award

Recognized for his outstanding contributions to the community and campus, Robert C. Lim Jr. received the 1997 Alumnus of the Year Award at the School of Medicine's homecoming on May 17.


Lim

A professor of surgery in the School of Medicine and a professor of oral biology in the School of Dentistry, Lim specializes in vascular and trauma surgery and liver transplantation. For the past seven years, he has been part of the liver transplant team at Moffitt Hospital.

Married a year before he graduated from UCSF in 1960, Lim credits his wife, Carolee, for her support during his 37 years in medicine. Reflecting on his long career, Lim says his greatest satisfaction has been "the opportunity to teach and counsel students coming through the School of Medicine."

Lim served his internship and residency at UCSF and completed training as a fellow in vascular surgery at the VA Medical Center in San Francisco. He also was a fellow in thromboembolic and microcirculation at the University of Gothenberg in Sweden. Afterward, he briefly served as staff surgeon at the SF VAMC. Lim became director of the emergency department at San Francisco General and then chief of vascular service.

It was especially gratifying, Lim says, to be able to ease "the pain and suffering of patients, especially those who are indigent patients who did not have a regular doctor and who had no one else to turn to" at SFGH. He says he has tried to instill the philosophy of providing such care to students.

Committment to students remains

And while Lim acknowledges the dramatic changes in health care, he says his commitment to students has remained the same. "It has been difficult because of decreased funding for medical education and trying to make ends meet by competing in the community for revenue for the practice of medicine," he says. "With the crisis of managed care and with the merger of Brown & Toland and with Stanford, I think it has created somewhat of a distraction to our primary goal of educating our students."

Lim's surgical talent has been held in such high regard that from 1968 to 1989, he was on call whenever the President of the United States or other dignitaries came to San Francisco.

Lim took a sabbatical in December 1990 when, as part of the US Army Reserve, he was called to duty for Operation Desert Storm to train medical surgeons in Tacoma, Washington, until May 1991.

He has served on 56 UCSF and School of Medicine committees, more than a dozen of which were search committees for department chairs. He has also served on the Dean's Advisory Committee for the UCSF-Fresno Program and the Housestaff and Student Affairs Committee.

A guest lecturer and visiting professor at a number of other universities, Lim has published more than 100 articles, abstracts and papers and is a member of more than 25 professional associations. He is a governor of the American College of Surgeons. Named in Who's Who in America, he has received numerous honors and awards, including those from the Chinese American Physician's Society, the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand and the Youth Opportunity Program of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

—Lisa Cisneros

Karen Preuss

Students get rewards for lesson plans

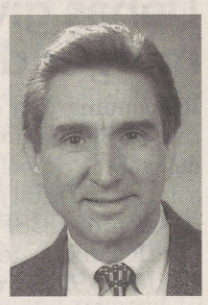
Students from George Washington High School, who taught younger students about gravity, and a team from Horace Mann Middle School, above, who taught about temperature and air pressure, each won first prize and $1,000 in the tenth annual contest sponsored by the UCSF Science and Health Education Partnership (SEP). In all, UCSF awarded 15 teams a total of $4,900 in prizes presented at a ceremony on May 6. From left are teacher Debbie Franks, students Liz Caffrey and Summer Shapiro, school contest coordinator Helen Doyle and SEP contest director Liesl Chatman.

Bronzan joins Institute for Health Policy Studies

Bruce Bronzan, associate dean for administration and development in the UCSF-Fresno Medical Education Program, has accepted a position with the UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies (IHPS).

His appointment is effective August 1.

Bronzan has served in his position at UCSF-Fresno since January 1993. He is a former state assemblyman and Fresno County supervisor.


Bronzan

Bronzan has made substantial contributions to the UCSF-Fresno program and was crucial in developing the concept and innovative national model for local health care delivery system reform — the regional medical network.

Bronzan will continue to hold his appointment as an associate dean in the UCSF School of Medicine but with new responsibilities. He will serve at IHPS as a senior scholar on health policy, working closely with Philip R. Lee. Former director of IHPS, Lee most recently served as assistant secretary for health, US Department of Health and Human Services, but resigned the post in January to return to UCSF as an emeritus professor.

"We are pleased with Bruce's appointment," said Harold S. Luft, director of IHPS. "He is recognized as one of the most influential health policy makers in the state and a nationally recognized expert on health issues."

IHPS conducts research and analysis on health policy issues of national, state and local significance. It also educates students, fellows and faculty in the field of health policy.

During his tenure in the Legislature, Bronzan carried more than 100 pieces of major legislation reforming California health care. These included Proposition 99, which authorized the use of tobacco tax funds for increased health care services.

Bronzan also authored legislation that reinstated $20 million in funding to the Office of Family Planning so that local health centers can continue to provide primary care to 500,000 poor women in the state and helped counties improve mental health programs for seriously ill adults, children and criminal offenders.

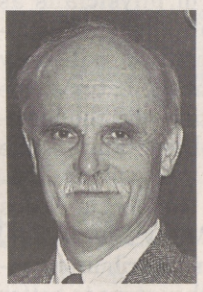
— Joe Rosato

Honors & Awards

Sally J. Marshall, professor, vice chair of research, department of restorative dentistry: Elected recently as vice president of the International Association for Dental Research. The IADR is the primary international association involved in dental research and has a worldwide membership of 12,000. Marshall was an officer of the American Association for Dental Research, the US component of the IADR, from 1990 to 1994.

Joseph B. Martin, chancellor: Received the Community Leadership Award for his efforts to promote diversity at the 1997 Awards Dinner of the National Conference of Christians and Jews on May 6 in San Francisco. Founded in 1927, the national organization is dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America and promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

Henry J. Ralston III, professor and chair of department of anatomy, School of Medicine: Received the 1996 Henry Gray Award, the most prestigious honor given by the American Association of Anatomists at its recent annual banquet. The award recognizes sustained and meritorious service to the entire scientific community through scholarly accomplishments in original investigation, teaching and writing in the field of anatomy.


Ralston

Edwin F. Rosinski, professor emeritus, medicine and pharmacy: Honored at the Sesquicentennial of the State University of New York, Buffalo, for his pioneering work in research on medical education.

Victoria Sweet, assistant clinical professor of medicine and doctoral student in the department of history of medicine: Received the Shryock medal for the best paper by a graduate student in any subject of medical history for 1997 from the American Association for the History of Medicine. Sweet's paper, titled Rereading Medieval Medicine: Hildegard of Bingen and the Greening of the Middle Ages, puts the twelfth-century German abbess, — the first European woman whose work has survived intact —medical text into context within medieval medical practice.

Denny Tuffanelli, clinical professor of dermatology: Selected as recipient of the Dermatology Foundation's Clark W. Finnerud Award at the recent annual meeting. One of the foundation's highest honors, this award recognizes outstanding contributions to dermatology through full-time practice and part-time teaching. In addition to teaching, Tuffanelli has been in private practice since 1983.

Young faculty receive Searle award

Two of the campus' newest scientists have been named Searle Scholars, an annual national recognition of young faculty who have demonstrated potential for doing innovative research and are expected to make significant contributions in the biological sciences.

Wendell Lim and Jonathan Weissman, both assistant professors in the department of cellular and molecular pharmacology, were among 15 in the country to receive one of the most prestigious awards for young scientists, which comes with a three-year grant of $180,000 to fund their research.

Lim is studying the complex biochemical circuits in protein signaling, which may explain how cells have the remarkable capacity to respond to different environmental conditions and signals. Weissman is studying protein folding and the mechanisms of "molecular chaperones." Their basic research may lead not only to a deeper understanding of how these proteins and biological pathways work, but to the development of ways to design and engineer protein interactions for therapeutic purposes.

Both researchers came to UCSF in 1996 from Yale University, where they were postdoctoral fellows.

The Searle Scholars Program was established at the Chicago Community Trust in 1980. It is funded from the estates of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Searle, who wished to support research in medicine, chemistry and biological science. To achieve this goal, grants are made to selected universities to support the independent research of outstanding individuals.

Private Support

UCSF is pleased to acknowledge the following listing of gifts/pledges of $25,000 or more from individuals, corporations and foundations received April 15-30, 1997.

$500,000 - $999,999
Estate of Margaret Jameson
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

$100,000 - $499,999
Estate of Elaine H. Erlanger
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Long
The Pew Charitable Trusts
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Deadline for the next issue, to cover June 7– 20, 1997, will be on **Tuesday, May 27.** Please send news to Lisa Cisneros, 476-3256 or (cisnero@itsa.ucsf.edu), and calendar items to Brad Foss, 476-3163 or (bfoss@itsa.ucsf.edu), both at Box 0462. Fax last-minute copy to 476-3541. For address and distribution changes, call C.J. Burleson at 476-6791.

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Scientists reevaluate brain's growth potential

By JEFFREY NORRIS

Scientists have long written off the human brain as incapable of generating a significant number of new nerve cells after early infancy, a belief that has limited expectations for recovery from stroke and brain trauma.

Now recent animal studies, including a new report in the May 15 issue of the Journal of Neuroscience by UCSF epilepsy researchers, are causing scientists to reevaluate the brain's growth potential.

Jack Parent, former chief resident in neurology and a scientist who conducts research in the laboratory of Daniel Lowenstein, professor of neurology, has determined that the brains of epileptic rats can generate many new nerve cells. These cells migrate from within a small brain structure called the hippocampus to form connections with other nerve cells.

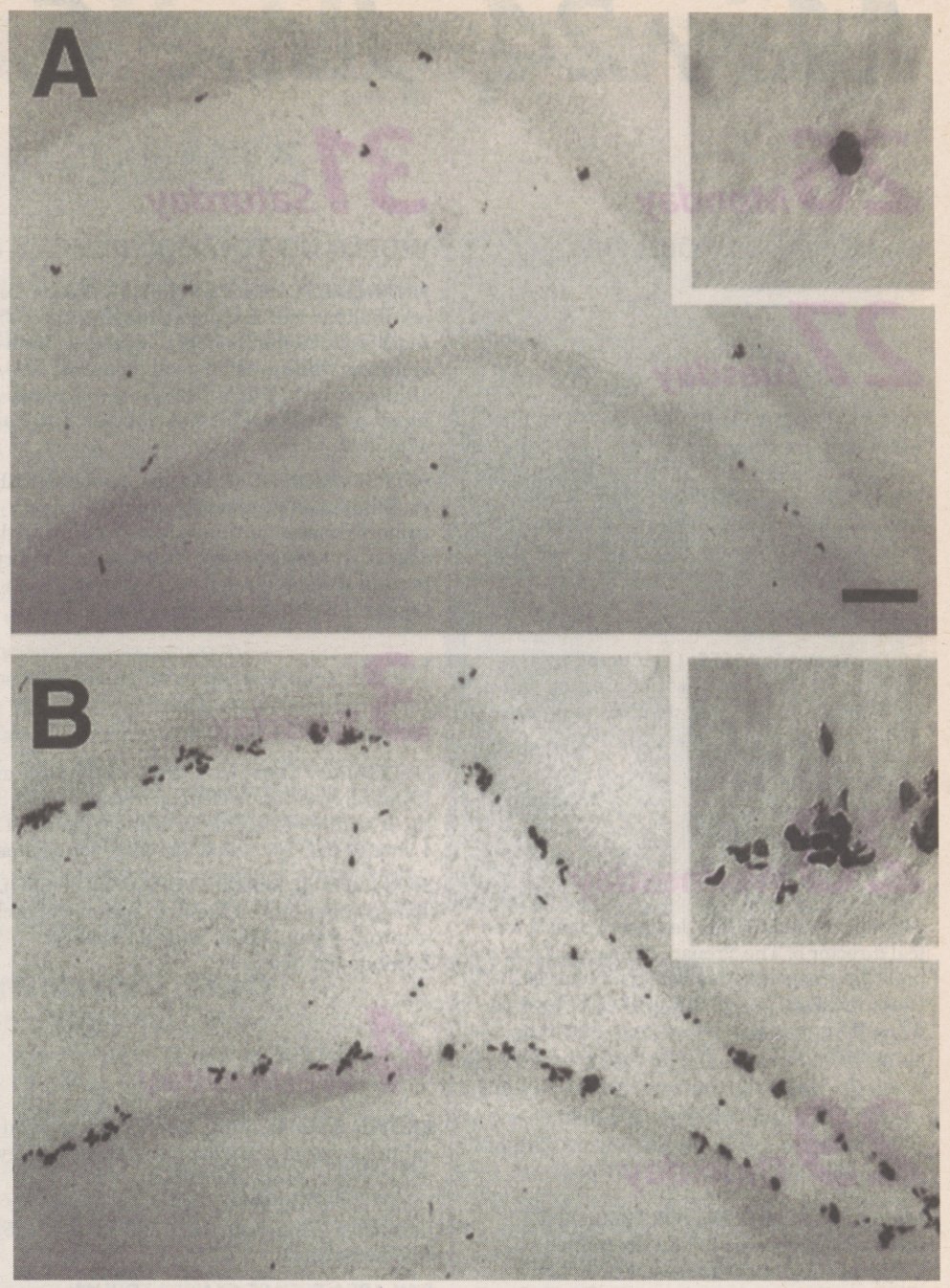
The study provides the first evidence that newborn nerve cells, and not pre-existing cells, as had been assumed, are responsible for the unusual nerve-cell connections that arise in the epileptic brain.

Epileptic seizures, characterized by uncontrolled movements or blackouts, are caused by what is essentially an electrical storm in the brain. Typically, nerve cells in a small region of the brain become overly excitable, prone to sudden and repeated firing that triggers mischief through electrical connections to more distant nerve cells. About 10 percent of the population has a seizure at some time and about one percent experience the chronic, recurrent seizures that define epilepsy. The form of epilepsy that makes up the majority of the most difficult-to-treat cases in humans is temporal lobe epilepsy.

After many symptom-free years, temporal lobe epilepsy often erupts in individuals who incurred a prolonged seizure accompanying fever in infancy or early childhood. Available epilepsy medications primarily act as anti-convulsants, treating the symptoms of the long-gestating disorder.

Though precise delivery of such a treatment and identification of individuals who could benefit may be difficult to achieve, Parent says, "An intervention that stops abnormal electrical connections from forming might also stop chronic seizures from ever developing." In addition, the UCSF scientists point out, researchers have in recent years achieved success in growing adult brain cells in laboratory cultures, leading scientists to conclude that there are inhibiting factors preventing the growth of these cells in the normal brain. Under conditions similar to those that arise in the hippocampus of epileptics, it may be possible to reactivate the growth of new brain cells, according to Lowenstein.

"We don't yet really understand the full potential for new brain cell growth," he concludes.



UCSF researchers demonstrated that the brains of epileptic rats can generate many new nerve cells. Dark staining of newborn cells indicates that many new nerve cells arise in the hippocampus of epileptic rats, shown in slide B, in comparison to the same brain region in normal rats, shown in slide A. The study provides the first evidence that newborn nerve cells, and not pre-existent cells, as had been assumed, are responsible for the unusual nerve-cell connections that arise in the epileptic brain.

Language (from page 1)

ing" sounds.

The new study refines scientific understanding of why the language-impaired children find it difficult to distinguish individual sounds presented during normal speech. The study specifies more clearly the cause of the impairment, which in turn leads to slow progress in school.

Speech fits into the category of masking because it consists of a stream of auditory stimuli occurring sequentially in time. In normal individuals the masking of individual speech sounds by preceding or following sounds is not sufficient to impair speech processing.

However, Beverly Wright, who now is an assistant professor of audiology and hearing sciences at Northwestern University, found that those with the disorder required that tones be about 45 decibels more intense before they could be heard over masking noise. This is comparable to the difference between the sound level in a quiet room and at the side of a superhighway, Wright says.

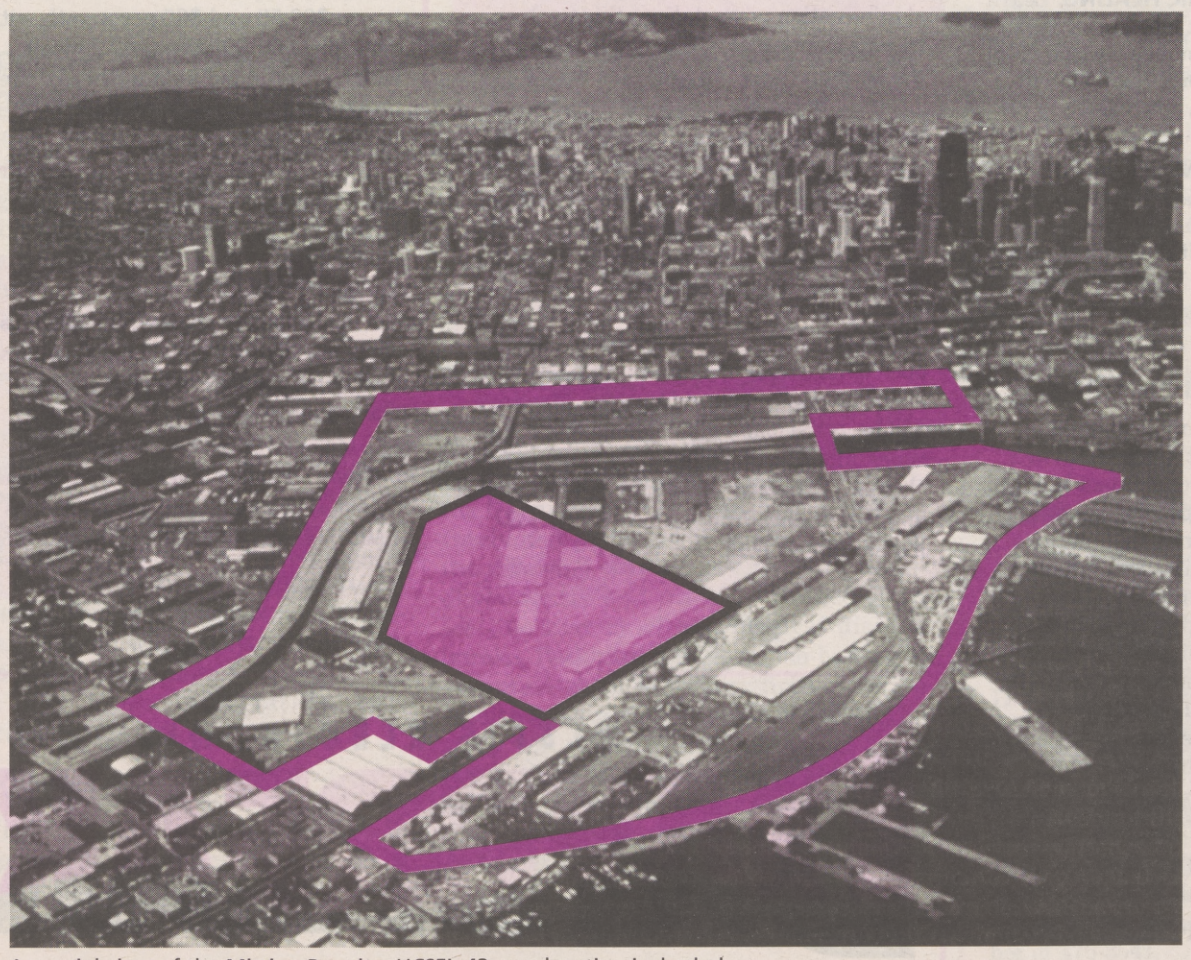
Wright conceived and conducted the study as a UCSF research scientist in a group led by Michael Merzenich, professor of otolaryngology and a research scientist with the W.M. Keck Foundation Center for Integrative Neuroscience at UCSF.

Specific language impairment affects about ten percent of children, says Merzenich. "This study provides a basis for early identification of this disorder, and helps us to define the problem more precisely," he says. "It also has implications for how we might better treat language-impaired children. Additionally, the study may lead to new insights regarding the neurological basis of this disorder and of language processing in general."

Wright, who is trained in acoustics and psychology, collaborated with researchers at the University of Florida to design and conduct testing. "For a tone to be detected in the presence of masking noise, it must be more intense than usual or else must be separated in time or frequency from the masking noise," Wright says. "We observed that the language-impaired children were consistently poorer than the controls at detecting a brief tone presented with a masking noise, particularly when the brief tone was turned on immediately prior to the masking noise. This phenomenon is called backward masking."

Although Wright studied only eight language-impaired children and eight unimpaired children for comparison, the differences in their responses was significant, she says. Despite their distinctively different responses to the tests Wright administered, the differences between normal and language-impaired children would not be detected on standard hearing tests given in school, she says.

For more information, the address for the UCSF web site on language-based learning disabilities is http://www.ld-ucsf.edu.



An aerial view of the Mission Bay site. UCSF's 43-acre location is shaded.

Mission Bay (from page 1)

ed to occur at the campus over the next 15 years. While the LRDP established a goal of developing a major new site, it stopped short of recommending a specific location. Campus planners began with 120 possible locations for a second major site in the Bay Area. After a two-year review, the three finalist sites remained to be analyzed.

The LRDP studied Mission Bay along with the Brisbane Baylands/ Executive Park developments near Candlestick Point and the Harbor Bay Business Park in Alameda as possible expansion sites.

Located along San Francisco Bay, Mission Bay is bounded by Townsend Street on the north, Interstate 280 on the west and Mariposa Street on the south.

All of the finalists for the major new site share important advantages, including sufficient land, transportation access, and compatible land uses, but planners found that Mission Bay offers the best opportunity to fulfill campus goals and objectives.

Mission Bay is closer than the other finalists to UCSF's main site on Parnassus Avenue and is well-served by surface roads and planned public transit, the discussion item notes. Mission Bay offers the only opportunity to develop the new site in a single, contiguous parcel of land.

UCSF's long range planning effort has been guided by three advisory groups — the Planning Committee for the 21st Century composed of faculty and administrative leaders, the University Advisory Group made up of staff and students, and the Community Advisory Group, a diverse group of neighborhood, labor, ethnic, and business leaders.

The advisory groups prepared and endorsed a statement of goals and objectives that UCSF planners used as an important tool in evaluating the possible sites for the major new site.

Campus officials remain committed to open and full communication with the community during the implementation of the LRDP.

May 24–June 6, 1997

26 Monday

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED

27 Tuesday

NEWSBREAK/MEDSOUNDS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

FREE DENTAL WORK: Those who attend a free dental screening, 5:30-7 p.m., at 700 Parnassus, may qualify for a free deep cleaning, filling or crown. Other screenings will be June 2, 3, and 10 at the dental clinic located at 707 Parnassus. Call 476-9600.

MEDITATION CLASSES: Conducted by Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center and sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts and Sciences, 12-1 p.m., N 617. Free. Call 584-4416 to register.

28 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Jeanine Kronish, medical director of The Prepare Clinic at UCSF, and Christine Greco, associate director of the clinic, present *Having Surgery? Get Prepared,* what to know before you or your child has surgery, 12:10-1 p.m., N 225. Call 476-4394.

29 Thursday

TAY SACHS SCREENING FOR PREGNANT COUPLES: Sponsored by the Northern California Tay-Sachs Disease Prevention Program. For appointments, call 476-4080.

CANCER CARE MEETS MANAGED CARE: This is the topic of discussion chosen by Charles B. Wilson, Tong-Po Kan professor of neurology, as part of the Medical Grand Rounds series, noon, N 225. Call 476-2138.

30 Friday

HELEN NAHM LECTURE: Jeanie Schmit Kayser-Jones, professor in the department of physiological nursing and the medical anthropology program, and recipient of this year's memorial award, presents *The Silence of Old Age: The Quality of Care in Nursing Homes,* 10 a.m., N 225. The award honors the late Helen Nahm, dean of the UCSF School of Nursing from 1958 to 1969.

ACTIVITY DAY AT RESOURCE CENTER: All staff are invited to participate in dance, t'ai ch'i, yoga and other exercise, 2-5 p.m., at the Mount Zion Cancer Resource Center, 2356 Sutter St. Refreshments will be provided. Call 885-3693.

SCHOOL OF NURSING COMMENCEMENT: Shirley Chater, Regents professor at the Institute for Health and Aging, is the keynote speaker for this ceremony, 6-8 p.m., Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St.

DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Assisting Your Manager: Leading a Work Team. Tuesday, June 3, 8:30 a.m.-noon. $40.

Project Management Basics. Wednesday, June 4, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Thursday, June 5, 12:30-4:30 p.m. $150.

Supervising in the Workplace: Managing Employees with Chemical Dependencies, AIDS and Disabilities. Thursday, June 5, 8:30 a.m.-noon. $40.

Solving Real Communication Problems. Tuesday, June 10 and Thursday, June 12, 9 a.m.-noon. $70.

UCSF Budget Basics. Friday, June 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, call 476-4032.

INFORMATICS CLASSES

The UCSF Library offers the following Informatics Training Seminars. Classes are held in S 165A Medical Sciences Building (MSB), the ILC Classroom at 222 Library (LIB) and the San Francisco General Hospital Library (SGFH). Please call 476-2337 for a complete schedule or check out the Informatics website at http://www.library.ucsf.edu/ed/class/

31 Saturday

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR: Leona Lau, certified tax and financial planning specialist, teaches participants how to design a financial plan while avoiding common mistakes, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., S 214. $45. An event coordinated by the Women's Resource Center. Call 476-5222.

BETTER VISION NOW: Richard Abbott, UCSF professor of ophthalmology, discusses new surgery options for the correction of nearsightedness and astigmatism – from laser surgery to corneal implants, 6 p.m., Beckman Vision Center, 8 Kirkham Ave. Free. Call 476-5021.

3 Tuesday

MEDITATION CLASSES: Conducted by Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center and sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts and Sciences, 12-1 p.m., N 617. Free. Call 584-4416 to register.

SHAKESPEARE READING/DISCUSSION GROUP: This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m., MU 244. Call Elizabeth Zurlinden at 476-5111.

4 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Ron Ruggiero, clinical professor of pharmacy, obstetrics and gynecology, presents *Hormones for Life, for Better or for Worse,* a discussion on the use of hormones throughout life, 12:10 p.m., N 225. Call 476-4394.

BAY AREA BREAST CANCER FORUM: *Developing the Role of a Patient Navigator* is the topic of this gathering of health care professionals and advocates, 6:30-8 p.m., third floor conference room, Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter St. There is a light dinner that begins at 6 p.m. Call Hope Wallace at 885-3738.

6 Friday

HOSPITAL NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION: Langley Porter Auditorium. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Department personnel representatives call John Frank at 476-3001.

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: Six invited speakers will present their work on topics including patterning in the central nervous system and the role of signaling molecules and cell to cell interactions in patterning. The full-day event begins at 8:45 a.m. in N 225. Breakfast and a pizza lunch will be served. Call 476-2699.

INTRODUCTION TO PRANIC HEALING: Learn about this treatment that was developed in the Phillipines, which assumes that physical and psychological symptoms manifest first in a person's energy field, noon, N 217. Call 584-4416.

PSYCHIATRY COMMENCEMENT: David Spiegel, professor and associate chair in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University, is the keynote speaker for this ceremony, 1 p.m., Toland Hall.

Breast cancer screenings

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from a mobile van that travels to convenient locations in the Bay Area.Women need the approval of their physician, in addition to their doctor's full name, address (including room number & zip code) and phone number to assure that results are mailed promptly. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $75. Call 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to make an appointment. Listed below are dates when the van will be at UCSF locations. Call 476-2193 for a full schedule.

- Tuesday, May 27 and Wednesday, May 28, Laurel Heights, 3333 California St.
- Thursday, May 29, UCSF/Lakeshore Plaza, 1501 sloat Blvd.
- Friday, May 30, UCSF Parnassus at Medical Center Way.
- Friday, June 13, UCSF Lakeshore Plaza.

THE BREAST CANCER QUILT PROJECT ART EXHIBIT: See upcoming events on page 5.

Benefits counseling for employees

A special series of benefit counseling sessions continues until Tuesday, June 3 for UCSF Medical Center employees and other UCSF employees affected by the merger of clinical services at UCSF and Stanford.

As UCSF Stanford Health Care (USHC) takes shape and deadlines for making transition decisions grow closer, the UCSF Human Resources department decided to offer the benefits counseling program to provide employees with information they will need to make personal decisions regarding their UC insurance and retirement options if they separate from the University whether or not they are offered or accept a position with USHC.

The merger is expected to go into effect on Monday, Sept. 1.

The benefits counseling program will provide UCSF employees with information on UC insurance and retirement options. Human Resources began a series of general information presentations this week at various campus sites. The remaining meetings in the series are listed below.

The department also has formed a team of Human Resources staff and volunteers to provide UC benefits information on an ongoing basis as the merger moves forward. Information will be available through meetings, mailings to employees' homes, and individual counseling sessions.

The general information sessions are open to all employees who want to learn about UC insurance and benefits. Meetings will be at the following locations, dates, and times: Monday, May 26, from 7 to 8 a.m. in Cole Hall; Tuesday, June 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, June 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Herbst Hall.

Summer parking permits for sale

A limited number of summer parking permits for the Parnassus campus will be on sale beginning at noon on Friday, June 13 in the Parking Office, MU, Level G, Room 26.

Parking and Transportation Services will offer these summer parking permits to interested faculty, staff, and students on a first-come, first-served basis for regular daytime parking in the ACC permit garage. Summer parking privileges are good from June 15 through Sept. 15 only. One month or the entire block of three-month permits may be purchased. The cost is between $62.50 and $65 per month with an additional $20 Cardtrol deposit, which is refunded upon return of the Cardtrol at permit expiration.

Location key

ACC – Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus
C – Clinical Sciences Building, 521 Parnassus
CL – Campus Library, 530 Parnassus
HSW – Health Sciences West
MU – Millberry Union, 500 Parnassus
N – School of Nursing, enter at 513 Parnassus
S – Medical Sciences Building, 513 Parnassus
VAMC – Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 4150 Clement

UCSF'S ELECTRONIC DAILY
DAYBREAK
FOR DAILY NEWS GO TO www.ucsf.edu/daybreak/

What's Happening

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commencement ceremonies

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing commencement will be held on Friday, May 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Shirley Chater, Regents professor at the Institute for Health and Aging, will present a speech titled "From Training Wheels to Bicycles."

Psychiatry Department

The department of psychiatry commencement will be held on Friday, June 6 at 1 p.m. in Toland Hall. David Spiegel, professor and associate chair in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University, will speak on "Minding the Body: Psychotherapy for Extreme Situations."

School of Pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy commencement will be held Saturday, June 21 at 11 a.m. at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Keynote speaker will be Mary Ann Koda-Kimble, chair of UCSF's department of clinical pharmacy. This year's nominees for the Bowl of Hygeia award are David Barbour, Marie Belshe, Darren Lew, Sandy Tan and Winnie Wong.

School of Dentistry

The School of Dentistry commencement will be held on Saturday, June 21 at 4 p.m. at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Arthur Dugoni, dean of the School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific, will speak on "The Station."

Investment Fund Performance

Total rates of return for the UC 403(b), DCP and comparative indices

Ending April 30, 1997

UC Fund/Index	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month	5 Year*	Year To Date
UC Savings Fund	**0.50%**	**1.50%**	**6.22%**	**6.80%**	**2.03%**
US T-Bill (1-Yr)	0.46	1.39	5.64	4.88	1.85
UC Money Market Fund	**0.45**	**1.32**	**5.52**	**4.70**	**1.78**
US T-Bill (30-Day)	0.43	1.25	5.23	4.30	1.71
UC ICCF Fund	**0.60**	**1.79**	**7.61**	**8.04**	**2.42**
UC Bond Fund	**2.23**	**0.00**	**16.44**	**12.04**	**0.03**
Lehman Bros. Gov't/Corp/Yankee	1.46	0.46	6.92	7.55	0.77
UC Equity Fund	**4.09**	**2.08**	**18.71**	**15.82**	**6.77**
S&P 500	5.97	2.38	25.10	17.08	8.74
UC Multi-Asset Fund	**2.08**	**1.38**	**12.38**	**10.58**	**3.22**

* Annualized rate of return reflects average over the past five years.

Unit values for variable funds as of April 30, 1997: Equity $176.06; Bond 85.96; Multi-Asset 20.48

Unit values are similar to mutual fund share prices and change monthly to reflect changes in the market value of the fund's underlying investments, inclusive of interest and dividend income. Past performance is neither a guarantee nor a predictor of future returns.

Source: Jerry Neal, UCSF Benefits and Financial Planning

MEDICAL CALL BOARD

Perspectives of family caregivers of ill

The UCSF School of Nursing's department of community health systems is conducting research to learn about the ways in which family members cope and care for their relatives with health or memory problems, such as Alzheimer's disease or senility. By sharing their experiences, health care professionals would be better able to support and understand what family caregivers and their family members are feeling.

Participation requires completing a questionnaire that asks about caregiving experiences. The questionnaire can be mailed, conducted over the phone or in person. It takes two hours to complete. All information from participants is confidential. Participants will receive $10 in cash for thoughtful sharing of their experiences. For more information, call Katherine Waters 502-7995.

Biomechanics

The UCSF/SFGH Biomechanics Lab is looking for men and women over 70 to participate in a study investigating body movements while sitting. Experiments will require subjects to undergo strength and balance tests, and sit up and down several times. Experiments will be conducted at the Biomechanics Lab at SFGH. Subjects will be paid $10 per hour. The test will be conducted over two separate days, each expected to take one to two hours. Interested individuals should call James Chiu or Barbara Jordan at 206-6865.

Balance and posture

The UCSF/SFGH Orthopedic Biomechanics Lab is seeking men and women 70 years and older for a study investigating the mechanics of balance and posture. Interested participants must meet all of the following criteria: be able to stand independently and walk a distance of 15 feet; no history of neurological disease (stroke, Parkinson's disease); no history of amputations or severe arthritis; and be able to read and understand English. The study will consist of two sessions of about two to three hours each. Test sessions will be conducted at SFGH. Interested individuals should contact Liz Hsiao or Barbara Jordan at 206-6865.

Art exhibit heals

Quilts created by more than 100 breast cancer survivors and artwork made by UCSF patients facing life-threatening disease will be on display through Monday, June 30 in an exhibition focusing on the power of art in the lives of those who are ill at the Interim City Hall, 401 Van Ness Ave., fourth floor.

"Art on the Front Lines of Healing" is part of the The Breast Cancer Quilt Project, sponsored by Art for Recovery at UCSF/Mount Zion and presented by the Art Commission Gallery of the San Francisco Art Commission.

The exhibit captures the emotions of Bay Area women who have breast cancer within the fabric of multi-colored quilts. Individual quilt squares contain poems, photographs, fabric with personal memories and paintings that describe the artists' feelings.

For more information about The Breast Cancer Quilt Project, contact Cindy Perlis at 885-7221. For more information on the exhibit, call 255-3474.

Staff Council meets

The UCSF Staff Council will hold its general membership meeting on Thursday, May 29, from noon to 1 p.m. in Toland Hall to discuss and vote on revisions to its current bylaws.

The majority of revisions are intended to provide clearer wording to more accurately describe its membership – non-represented staff employees – to clarify confusing passages and to reflect current practice.

The most noteworthy proposed change of the bylaws is to replace the position of "vice chair" with "chair-elect," so that the person elected to this position would be expected to serve a two-year term, assuming the role of chair in the second year.

An advisory panel to the Chancellor, the UCSF Staff Council meets regularly to exchange information and ideas regarding employees issues.

Volunteer opportunities

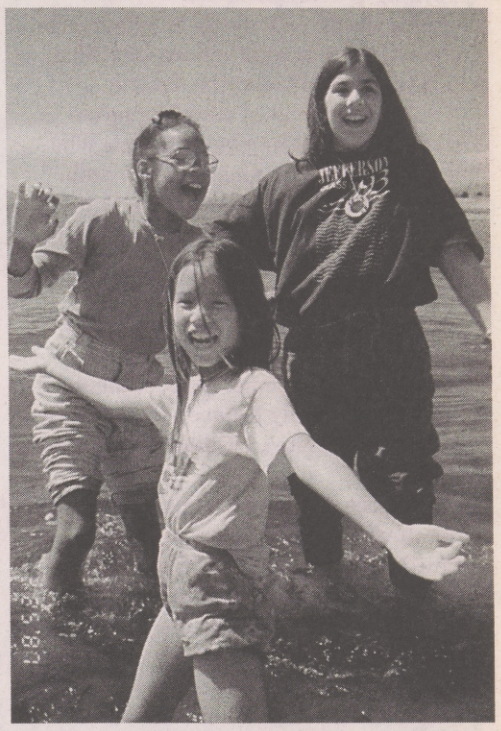
UCSF offers students many opportunities to volunteer at the Medical Centers on Parnassus and at Mount Zion this summer. Students ages 14 and up are encouraged to participate. Students must be willing to commit to four hours per week for eight weeks. Call 476-1196 to volunteer at the Medical Center on Parnassus or 885-7835 to give a helping hand at Mount Zion.

Neurology review

A case-based review of common neurological problems and their management will be held from Thursday, June 5 through Saturday, June 7 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to separate benign headache syndromes from more serious conditions, recognize Parkinson's disease, provide effective and practical work-up of a stroke victim and provide effective work-up for geriatric and pregnant patients. Sponsored by the Department of Neurology. For registration information, call 476-5808.

Newsbreak deadline

Tuesday, May 27, is the deadline for items to be listed in the next calendar, which covers June 7–20, 1997 (two weeks). Complete information must be received in our office in writing by 11 a.m. on that Tuesday. Send information for the calendar to Brad Foss at (bfoss@itsa.ucsf. edu), mail it to Box 0462, send a fax to 476-3541, or bring it to UCSF/ Laurel Heights, 3333 California St., Suite 103 or call 476-3163. To submit information for Newsbreak/ Medsounds send email to Lisa Cisneros at (cisnero@itsa.ucsf.edu), or fax it to her at 476-3541.



OU summer camps

Space is still available for the Outdoors Unlimited summer day camps. These unique two-week sessions in science and nature, theater, and outdoor adventure are for children ages 6 through 14. Camp is Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday, June 16 to Friday, August 29. Register your child at the Millberry Fitness Center. For more information or a free brochure, call 476-1469.

OU equipment sale

After a successful spring ski equipment sale, Outdoors Unlimited is ready to unload sleeping bags, backpacks, tents, stoves, wetsuits, paddling jackets and more for summer recreation on weekdays from Monday, June 16 to Monday, June 23. Items will be discounted at 40-60 percent. For more information, call 476-2078.

Cirque du Soleil benefit

See Canada's premiere circus troupe and contribute to a good cause on Saturday, June 21, when Cirque du Soleil performs at Jack London Square in Oakland. Tickets have been reserved for the UCSF community by the UCSF/Mount Zion Auxiliary, which is selling them as a fundraiser. The auxiliary serves patients in need at UCSF/Mount Zion and in the UCSF Cancer Center. Tickets are $100 each. For more information, call 885-7354.

Skate with Yamaguchi

Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation is sponsoring "Skates in the Park II" on Sunday, June 22 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Golden Gate Park. A kick-off dinner and auction will be held the evening before the festival at 6:30 p.m. The UCSF Women's and Children's Specialty Program will receive a boost of support with proceeds from the in-line skating festival, which features Scott Hamilton and Peggy Fleming, among others.

The general public is invited to participate and entrance fees start at $25, which includes entertainment, a recreational skate through a 10K course through the park and lunch. A smaller course will be designated for first-time skaters and children. Each year, the Women's and Children's Specialty Program provides comprehensive care to more than 250 clients living with HIV. For more information on the dinner or the festival, call 334-PARK.

Whitewater rafting

Raft a Class III river with your friends and colleagues. One-day group whitewater rafting trips for up to 16 people are organized for UCSF students and staff by Outdoors Unlimited from May through October. The cost is $45 per person. Reservations must be made at least one month in advance. For details call David Delfiner at 502-2508.

Shuttle service to enforce restrictions

The UCSF shuttle service will begin enforcing ridership restrictions as a way to ensure passenger safety and convenience, says Jon Gledhill, director of Parking & Transportation Services.

As a result, riders may be required to show the driver appropriate identification in order to board the shuttle.

"This is a result of our observation that there are a number of people who are on the shuttle causing some problems," says Gledhill, explaining that some passengers have been disruptive.

Established in 1973, the service began with one station wagon which transported staff and students to and from Aldea. Today, the service transports some 3,000 employees, students and patients daily between the various main campus sites, UC Berkeley and to BART.

The fleet includes 10 shuttles that run during regular hours and three shuttles that make limited rounds during morning and evening hours. But while the larger shuttles can accommodate 28 riders and the smaller ones can hold 14, space can be limited, especially during the morning rush hour when some riders can be left stranded, Gledhill says.

"As we continue to serve a larger population, we need to add shuttles," Gledhill explains, adding that the ability to put more shuttles on the street largely depends on revenues generated by parking fees.

Although the ridership policy has been in place since the inception of the program, Gledhill says that an advisory committee made up of riders concluded that enforcement of the policy is necessary to curb overcrowding.

As part of this effort, signs stating the policy will be posted in all shuttles by the month's end. Signs will inform passengers that the shuttle service is for faculty, staff, students, patients and patient family members and formal guests only. Initially, drivers will only ask for identification during peak ride times when demand cannot be met by existing shuttles or when passenger safety becomes an issue, Gledhill says.

Questions about the policy may be directed to the Parking & Transportation Services, at 476-2560 or by email at jon_gledhill@quickmail.ucsf.edu.

Call for proposals from junior faculty

Faculty Development Awards, intended to provide support for talented junior faculty who hold ladder appointments but who may encounter unusual obstacles in developing the substantial records in research and creative work necessary for advancement to tenure, are invited to submit proposals for funding.

Award funds may be used for equipment necessary to establish a research lab or to develop a research project; special paid leave or release time to initiate or complete scholarly effort; and research stipends.

In related news, 1997-98 pre-tenure award funds are available to junior faculty. As in the past, one eligible faculty member will be competitively selected for this award of $22,636 for 1997-98. This award must be used for substantial release time from regular duties for major concentration on scholarly and research activity.

Application packets for both awards should be submitted to Academic Services, Box 0400, by Thursday, May 29. For more information on the application process or requirements, call 476-5472 or email Keith Wilson at chanoff.ucsf.edu.

Mirsky takes to horseback heroics

By BRAD FOSS

Zina Mirsky's enthusiasm for public service has led her to adventures many wouldn't even consider and a commitment to volunteerism that the masses defer to people like herself.

Five years ago, this associate dean in the School of Nursing, who had always been an outdoors enthusiast, took up horseback riding in the hills just outside her East Bay home. Before long, she and her horse, Peaches, joined the East Bay Regional Park District Mountain Patrol, providing wilderness first aid and assisting recreationers who get lost.

The patrol also carries out search and rescue missions during the unfortunate, but not uncommon, event of a young adult contemplating suicide in the vast open space.

On patrol sometimes as much as five days a week, Mirsky says it's definitely a challenge keeping a 1,000-pound animal in control as runners, bicyclists and rollerbladers zip by in either direction.

Mirsky began her horseback heroics after jumping out of airplanes was no longer an option. "I needed something to do when my bones became too brittle for skydiving," she says.

Mirsky, who retired as a Captain in the Navy Reserves last year, has parachuted out of planes more than 200 times with the US Marine Corps, though never in combat.

"I have always had a notion of public service, probably since my grade school days in the Bronx, where even if you didn't have anything, you still did something for others," she says.

She joined the Navy at age 19 to "see the world," moving from Maryland to Japan to San Diego, and to help pay for the nursing degree she would earn from Hunter College in New York.

Zina Mirsky with a photograph of her horse, Peaches

A long-time nurse and nursing instructor at UCSF before joining the School of Nursing administration, Mirsky made the transition in 1978 when an unexpected vacancy left Margretta Styles, who was then dean of nursing, in need of help. Today, Mirsky still trains nurses on how to become teachers, in addition to the day-to-day management of budgets and personnel.

UCSF PROFILE

Mirsky is also an active member of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, collecting books to give to hospital patients and assisting in bringing to the US a young Mexican girl who needed a prosthetic leg. For the past three years she has led Rotary's efforts in the San Francisco Immunization Coalition, a group of public, private and non-profit entities working to prevent measles, mumps, chicken pox, typhoid and other contagious diseases in children who are two years old or younger.

"The standard line is that we vaccinate our pets and cattle better than we do our own children," she says. But since the program began three years ago, the number of two-year-olds in San Francisco who are not immunized has decreased from 50 to 35 percent. "That's still an awful lot of kids that are susceptible," she says. "There's definitely more work to be done."

Millberry Union celebrates 40 years

By ANDY EVANGELISTA

Minus the meatloaf on the menu and scattering of ashtrays, the Millberry Union celebrated its 40th birthday recently as the social hub on Parnassus.

Sol Silverman remembers the opening of Millberry Union nearly 40 years ago as "a dream come true" for UCSF students. Before its construction in 1957, the campus didn't have a gym, locker room, swimming pool, billiard tables, major food service, or place for students to hang out. For years, School of Dentistry students, like Silverman, and faculty raised funds and saved the profits from their student-run bookstore — "The Coop" — on the north side of Parnassus for the seed money to sprout a much-needed student union.

And in the fall of 1958, Guy S. Millberry Union — named after the former dental school dean and supporter of the students' efforts — held its grand opening with a jazz concert by Dave Brubeck and a buffet dinner at $1.75 per person.

Times, attitudes and the facility indeed have evolved. The student dorms have been replaced by offices, menu items now feature international fast foods and the basketball court sports fiberglass backboards and breakaway rims. Ashtrays are history. Today, the only things smoking are the ingredients from the burritos sold on the recently refurbished plaza. In the '70s, one could buy a pizza burger deluxe — with fries — in the area that now houses a "juice bar" and, next-door, a row of treadmills.

Al Kerr, who retired four years ago after serving as a MU recreation supervisor for more than 30 years, says that when he started the only stair masters were the guys who trekked down flights to an area — now the locker rooms — to lift bar bells (now called "free weights") and punch the heavy bag. For many years, women had only 35 percent of the lockers — that was the percentage of women in the student body back then — but today they have their rightful half.

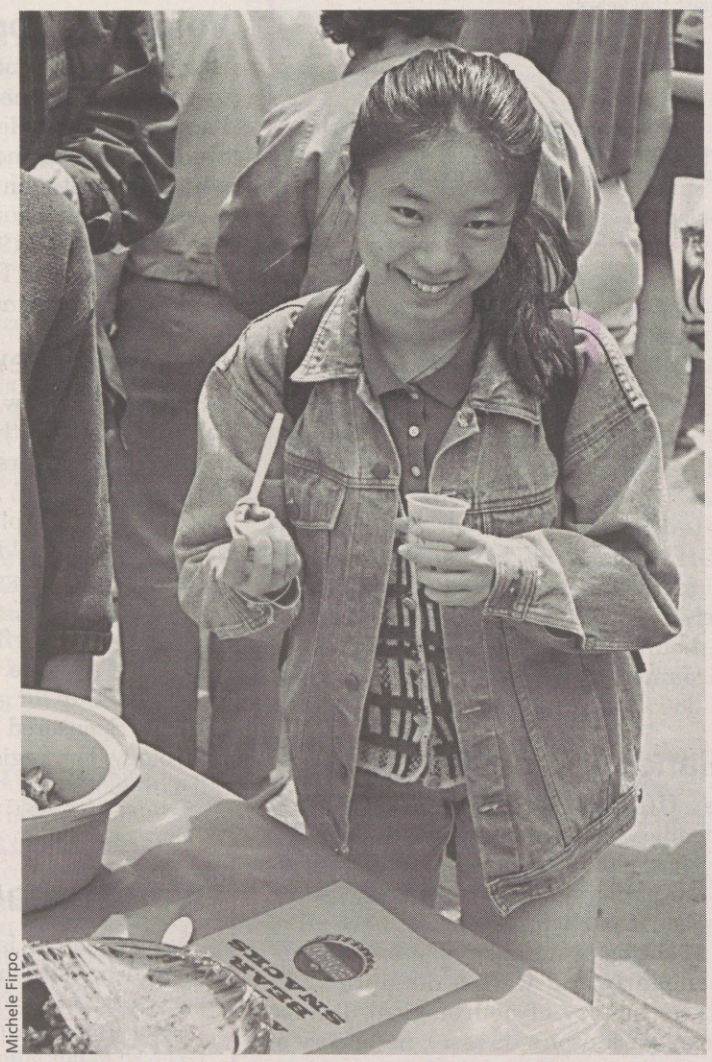
Known fondly as "Big Al," Kerr was a jack of all recreation trades, coaching sports ranging from track and volleyball to inner tube water polo. He took a basketball team of students in the early 1960s to the AAU championships in Denver, gave swimming lessons to hundreds of children and adults and taught exercise techniques to many MU members.

Silverman, now a UCSF professor of oral medicine and world-renowned expert in oral cancer, was often a member of Kerr's teams. Silverman joined the faculty in 1954 and MU when it opened 40 years ago and is at least tied in the category of longest active MU member. Amazingly, he is still a regular on the basketball courts.

Al Minvielle, director of campus auxiliary services, has seen MU's evolution from strictly a student union to a "campus community center." A survey conducted in the '80s, when the gym and other parts of the facility were cramped and physically deteriorating, showed that 78 percent of the staff would use an affordable facility for recreation and other activities.

MU then began a series of facelifts, and today has 6,500 members — and 700 on the waiting list — who use the modern, fully equipped fitness center and other parts of the facility. Hundreds of other non-members attend programs or enroll in classes at MU. About 70 percent of the campus population uses the various services, Minvielle estimates. And that does not include the hundreds that patronize the bookstore, new food services and other vendors in the complex.

After 40 years, the "Union" indeed brings together the people of UCSF.



Michele Firpo

A student enjoys Millberry Union's 40th birthday party on May 8, which featured food and performances by mariachi, jazz and steel drum musicians.

Faculty Associates seeks members

With a new name and new attitude, the UCSF Faculty Associates, formerly called UCSF Faculty Wives & Associates, is now looking for new members, says Jacqueline Lowenberg, president.

"We provide exciting educational programs and opportunities to meet and socialize with our UCSF family," she says.

Men and women are welcome to join the group that prides itself on its social and educational philanthropic activities. UCSF Faculty Associates has built a fund of nearly $400,000 for student loans and scholarships. Recently, the group presented a check for $18,250 for the fund to Chancellor Joseph Martin at its annual luncheon in the Fairmont Hotel. Funds are available through the Financial Aid Office to full-time students who demonstrate financial need.

Also at the meeting, officers were installed, including Lowenberg as president; Louise Heyneman, president-elect; Ellen Arenson, vice president; Liz Stone, treasurer; Anne Hickey, corresponding secretary; Betsy Bikle, recording secretary; Nancy Douglass, treasurer-elect; Danette Magilligan, immediate past president.

This year the group will give financial and volunteer support to the Young Women's Clinic at UCSF/Mount Zion for adolescent mothers.

Those interested in becoming a member of the UCSF Faculty Associates should send their name, department and home address to Box 0292 by Friday, June 13. For more information, call the group's office at 476-6686.

Department of Nursing honors excellence

With fanfare witnessed by friends, families and colleagues, the UCSF department of nursing recognized expert clinicians and allied health care staff in ceremonies on Parnassus and at Mount Zion.

Director of Nursing Jane Hirsch noted that this could be the final year that the department is part of the UCSF Medical Center. Nurses acknowledged the tradition of excellence, this year's nurses week theme, with an exhibition of nursing memorabilia.

The department's most prestigious prize, the 1997 Distinguished Nurses Award, was awarded to Sheila Gleeson, a clinical nurse III in the PACU. Gleeson shared her philosophy of managing post operative pain. "It really isn't much of a mystery," she said. "If a surgeon has just danced around inside someone's belly and there are any tubes stuck in any part of the body — it hurts — plain and simple.

"My rule of thumb is if the patient says they are in pain or they logically would hurt, given what has happened to them or what is about to happen to them, medicate and continue to do so until their respirations slow to low normal levels and their pain is tolerable."

Acknowledging that over the past year, the nursing department has worked to solidify its team-approach to patient care services, one that involves collaboration among everyone on the unit, Hirsch presented the first Nursing Colleague of the Year Award to two physicians, one each at Parnassus and Mount Zion.

Martin Bogetz, professor of clinical anesthesia, was given the honor this year on Parnassus. Quoting from the praise of his colleagues in the Surgery Center, Hirsch said, "Teamwork is his operative concept with the goal of achieving positive outcomes in patient care, as well as maintaining a positive work environment. He is one of the best nurses' advocates our unit has."

At Mount Zion, Robert Willenbucher, assistant clinical professor of medicine, was honored as colleague of the year. "He has the ability to make us all feel like 'team members' who are all sharing the same goal of improving the environment we work in to make it a better place for our patients," said Hirsch.

At Mount Zion, the Kevin Fitzgerald Memorial Preceptor Award was given to Linda Kropowensky. A clinical nurse II, Kropowensky was recognized for her commitment and dedication to teaching the art and science of nursing. "Linda is calm and caring even toward the most demanding patients. She listens to their complaints, concerns and fears," says Suzanne Broderick, an assistant nurse manager at Mount Zion.

Other major awards given to nurses and allied health care staff on Parnassus were:

Aric Alexander Excellence in Pediatric Nursing: Mary Passeri, (CNIII, PCRC), cares for all the pediatric HIV patients and sees them on a monthly basis in the outpatient areas. She builds trust in a relationship that enables her to sensitively care for the child and their family.

Excellence in Perinatal Nursing: Elizabeth Rohnstock (CNIII, ICN), a clinical nurse III for more than a decade, has long been recognized as a clinical expert in all areas of the ICN. Her leadership abilities and strong, effective communication style are often the reason the most hectic shifts run smoothly. Rohnstock is very positive and conveys that attitude to her co-workers during times of stress and change.

Perioperative Award for Excellence in Teaching: Colette McIntosh (CNIII, OR), demonstrates exemplary practice in the education of patients, families, new staff, faculty and students. Her teaching abilities have been described by her colleagues as insightful, compassionate, calm, focused, cheerful and even user-friendly. Says Assistant Director Deborah Avakian, "There is one quality that Colette possesses however, that is unique and not usually found in the OR. She is humble."

Transplant Nursing Award for Clinical Excellence: Mary Kennedy-Breiner (CNIII,14LM), embraced the challenge of caring for liver transplant patients when the service began on 14LM in 1988. She volunteered to be primary nurse for at least one transplant patient per month. Kennedy-Breiner is considered an expert in caring for these patients because she has a thorough understanding of the major illnesses as well as the psychosocial issues that affect them.

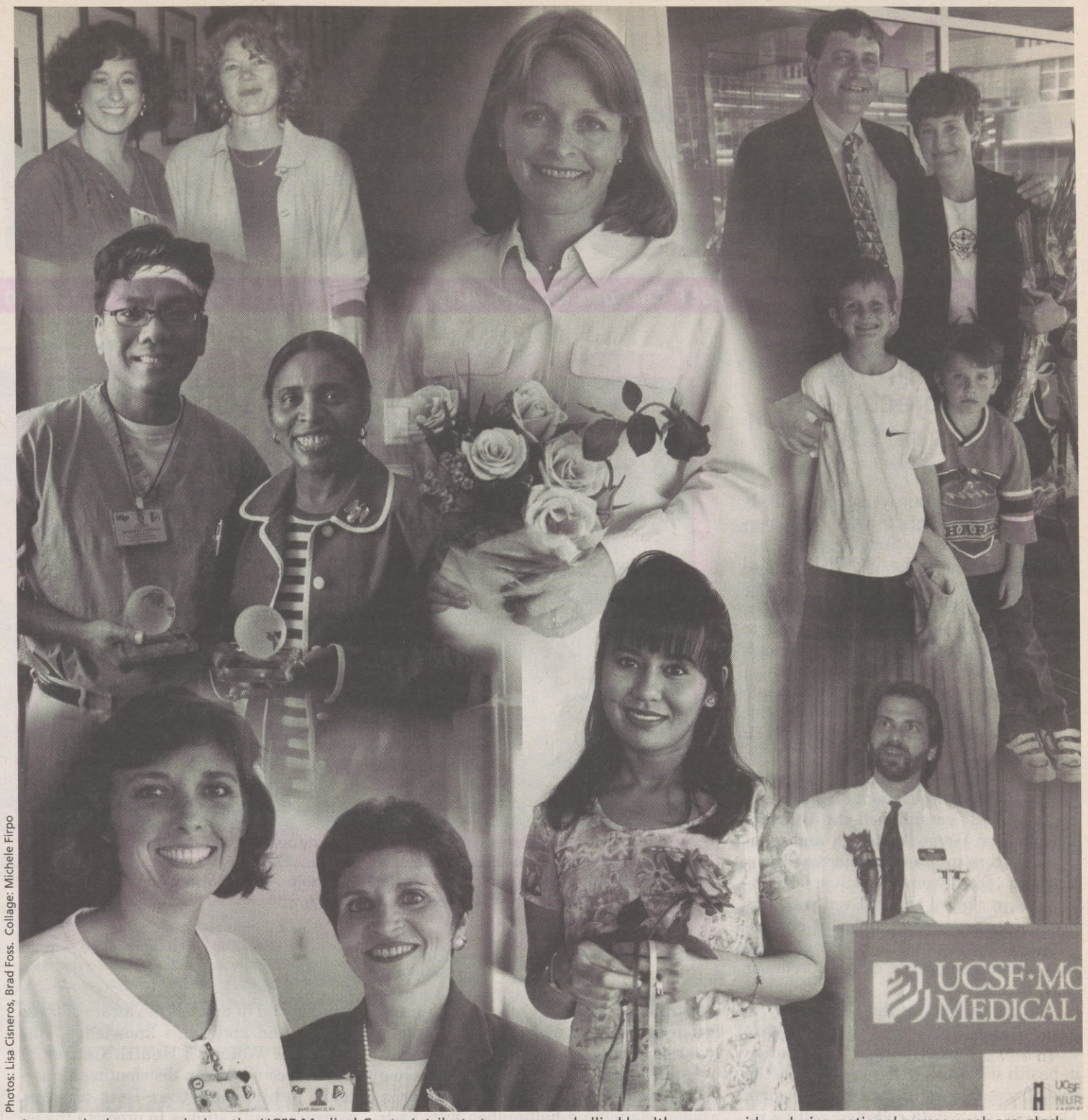
Department of Medicine Award for Excellence in Medicine Nursing: Cathy Obiniana (CNII, 12L), a patient advocate and dependable colleague, develops great rapport with the chronically ill patients and guides them through their care plans. She is supportive of patients' families and takes the time to educate them and help them cope with the extraordinary problems.

Sophie Robinson Award for Excellence in Care of a Complex Oncology Patient/ Family: Mary Beth Kreisl, (CNII, 6Ped), provided competent, compassionate and holistic care to an adolescent lymphoma patient. She made special efforts to encourage coordination of care among health care staff. With enthusiasm and humor, Kreisl makes hospital stays easier, and in this case, spent many hours with the patient when her mother was unable to be at her bedside. Through her personal commitment, Kreisl was able to help the patient find peace before she died.

Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing Award: Leslee Baldwin (CN11, 10L), a consummate clinician, embraces the paradigm of nursing as a complementary blend of science and humanism. She insists on the highest caliber of standards, actions, understanding and accountability. With warmth and confidence, Baldwin helps her patients adjust to their illness whether acute or chronic in nature.

Wilson Award for Excellence in Critical Care Nursing: Julie McCorkle (CN11, 9ICU), is recognized as an expert clinician in the care of the most complex ICU patients. She models quiet confidence and demonstrates a caring compassionate demeanor while caring for the critically ill adult. She remains calm in a crisis which reassures her patients and their families.

Beyond Boundaries Award: Arthur Cantos (CNII, 10L) and Salamah Locks (CNII, 10L) were both honored for their work promoting cultural diversity at the UCSF Medical Center.



Photos: Lisa Cisneros, Brad Foss. Collage: Michele Firpo

Among the honorees during the UCSF Medical Center's tribute to nurses and allied health care providers during national nurses week are, clockwise, from top center, Elizabeth Rohnstock; Sheila Gleeson with her husband and sons, Michael Strizich, Joe Strizich, 7, and John Strizich, 5; Robert Willenbucher; Mary Beth Kreisl; Director of Nursing Jane Hirsch and Leslee Baldwin; Arthur Cantos and Salamah Locks; and Nadia Rummy and Linda Kropowensky.

Nursing recognition awards

PARNASSUS

Administrative Nurse III: Pauline Chin, 9L

Administrative Nurse I: Anna Frankfurt, 8NICU/9ICU

Clinical Nurse III: Sherrie Christensen, 14LM; Tereza de Paula, 91CU; Diane Higashi, 12M; Nancy Someson, 15L; Mary Zamboukos, PACU

Clinical Nurse II: Julia Chin, 14L; Elaine Chyrklund, 15ICN; Ruth Forsting, 8LM; Irish Criseno-Kaiwi, 8LM; Kim Hee Jeong, 10ICC; Suzanee Leider, 9L; Raisa Lopatina, 8LM; Cielito Mariano, 10L; Mary McCollow, 12M; Sabrina Miller, 15L; Karen Peterson, OR; Judy Price 11L; Gilbert Rueda, 8NICU

Clinical Nurse Specialist: Laura Deering, Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute (LPPI)

Educator: Laura Galousin, E&E and Sandy Seegar, Prepare

Licensed Vocational Nurse: Sharon Bozzo, 8LM

Patient Care Assistant/Senior Hospital Assistant: Arsenia Bonifacio, 10L; Amelia Manzanares, Prepare; Juana Serrano, 14LM; Clifford Knight, 8LM; Kenneth Perkins, 9L; Lily Yang, ED

Patient Support Assistant: Nelida Curvas, 6Peds; Naty Salinas, 12M; Yuet Y. Siu, 15L; Don Le, 12L; William Short, 8NICU

Technician: Sidney West, LPPI

Unit Service Coordinator: Juanita Bequeath, 10ICC; Barbara Ransom, 12M; Dawn Cameron, 15L

Nursing Administrative Staff: Judy White, administration

MOUNT ZION

Administrative Nurse III: Nenita Arroz, 7E/W; Laraine Ferguson, PACU/SAPC; James Hall, N.O.

Administrative Nurse I: Joanne Johnston, ICU; Robert Landa, ER; Kathy Mori, 7E/W.

Clinical Nurse II: Recho Banes, ICU; Lourdes Bartonico, 7E; Terry Campbell, OR; Fanya Fatalevich, 4E; Linda Kolbach, 7N; Barbara Walter, OR; Kari Whitley, SAPC; Meiline Wong, 7N.

Licensed Vocational Nurse: Janice Clark, 5N; Susan Jones, 4E; Salvador Ramirez, 7W.

Patient Care Assistants/Hospital Assistants: Erlinda Estrera, 7N; Al Junio, OR; Irina Olshanskaya, SAPC; Arra Oliver, SAPC; Kriya Panchoreon, 4E; Bennette Tan, 7E; Fred Woodard, 5N.

Patient Support Assistants: Elaine Chin, 7E; Ernesto Devera, 5N; Armando Dumlao, ICU; Mila Orille.

Technicians: Bill Huff, 7E; Virginia Johnson, OR.

Unit Service Coordinators: Esther Lee, 5N; Corey Menotti, ER; Toni Rodgers, 4E.

Administration: Virginia Molina and Helen Williams

Nursing Education Award: Janet Corroo, CNIII

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Medsounds
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INSIDE

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1 Study finds Bay Area has the highest concentration of specialists
7 Department of Nursing presents annual nurses week awards

When shopping for study subjects, one size does not fit all

By BRAD FOSS

Why are some women more likely than others to voluntarily participate in scientific studies?

Researchers at the UCSF National Center of Excellence (COE) in Women's Health intend to answer that question as they take part in a nationwide effort to bolster participation in medical research among women of diverse backgrounds.

"There are certainly groups of people I'm better at recruiting than others. But I can't understand why," says Beth Brown, a research specialist at UCSF.

Indeed, the problem is not unique to UCSF. In 1990, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) established the Office of Research on Women's Health and mandated doctors to prioritize increased participation from women of diverse backgrounds in clinical trials. "Even with this mandate, however, recruitment and retention continues to be a challenge," says Rita Redberg, associate clinical professor of medicine.

Redberg is leading the COE study to understand the factors that motivate women to accept or decline participation in health studies as well as to examine the role of researchers in recruiting women. The descriptive data collected will be incorporated into a guide for researchers.

Typical barriers to participation for women include lack of child care and transportation as well as concern for their personal safety. Among minority women, however, recruitment is even more complicated as many health care providers don't understand the cultural backgrounds of the participants they seek to study.

Add to that a legacy of mistrust stemming from incidents such as the infamous Tuskegee studies of African-American males who went untreated for syphillis for decades. One of the most flagrant abuses of trust in the history of medicine in the US, the federally financed experiment in the rural town of Alabama involved more than 400 infected men who were denied treatment for 40 years. While the federal government has provided medical benefits to the victims' family members since 1975, the first formal apology was issued only last Friday by President Bill Clinton.

Prior to the NIH mandate, the majority of medical studies (aside from those in obstetrics and gynecology) focused on men. For instance, in cardiology studies, roughly 90 percent of all research participants were men even though heart disease has been identified as the number one killer in women, claiming a half-million lives each year. This exclusion of women from the research, Redberg says, led to insufficient data and limited access for women to experimental drugs, beneficial treatments, and increased level of care.

Diversifying the participant pool will improve the reliability of scientific results in less obvious ways too. According to Redberg, the average woman who participates in clinical studies tends to be slightly wealthier and healthier than women nationwide, therefore skewing the applicability of results. "The hardest group to recruit are sicker women and women at higher risk," she says.

The exclusion of any group of people in a study "poses serious problems in regard to the generalizability and application of research findings," says Redberg.

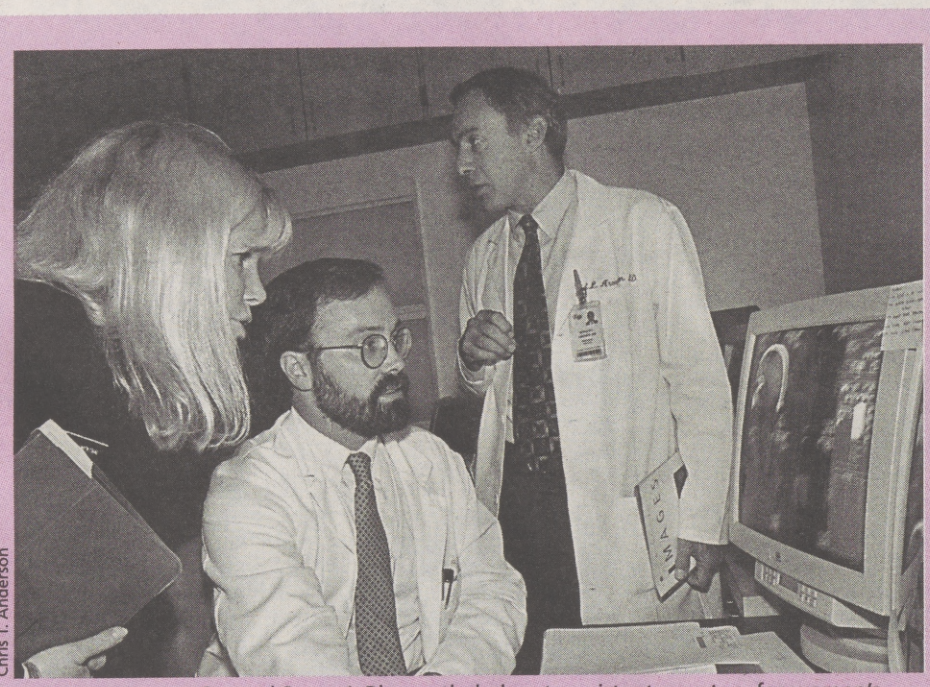
Widespread awareness of the need to support research in women's health is a "major step forward," says Nancy Milliken, director of the COE. "While new studies can correct inadequacies in the research on women, this information will only improve clinical care for women if physicians-in-training and in practice are aware of these studies and apply this knowledge," she says. The Women's Health Center at UCSF recently began distributing a quarterly publication that lists ongoing women's health studies to promote the integration of clinical and research projects.

The UCSF research team's methodology is twofold. A survey examining the factors that motivate or dissuade women to participate has been translated into nine different languages and will be distributed throughout the Bay Area. The second component of the study, to begin this summer, relies on information gathered during "roundtable discussions" with participant recruiters. The COE team is looking for more help from its UCSF colleagues.

If nothing else, says Brown, the roundtable discussions will be a great opportunity for research assistants, who are typically isolated from one another, to gather and compare notes.

"We often recruit with a one size fits all model, and that's not going to cut it," she says.

Individuals with experience recruiting women for research studies and who would be interested in participating in roundtable discussions this summer should call 885-7515.


Chris T. Anderson

Assistant Surgeon General Susan J. Blumenthal, deputy assistant secretary for women's health, met with UCSF leaders and women's health faculty on May 15 to discuss promoting women's health research, education, care and leadership. Above Howard Rowley, assistant professor of radiology, shows telemedicine technology while Ron Arenson, chair and professor of radiology looks on.

USHC seeks compromise on public disclosure

By BILL GORDON

While legislation designed to increase public scrutiny of UCSF Stanford Health Care (USHC) moved forward this week in the California legislature, officials with the merged medical center continued to seek an agreement on an alternative plan to satisfy demands for public disclosure without compromising the new organization's ability to compete in the health care market.

USHC officials met this week with UC and Stanford representatives and with legislators in an attempt to develop a solution acceptable to all sides in the debate.

No one predicts an immediate resolution. In fact, USHC chief executive officer Peter Van Etten expects heated debate to continue but he remains hopeful of reaching a compromise.

"Given the visibility of our two organizations, and the unprecedented nature of this merger, some level of public discussion and debate is expected, and indeed welcome," Van Etten said.

USHC will operate as a private nonprofit public benefit corporation — the same status as virtually all other large health care institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, community hospitals, and major public service organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. As a tax exempt organization, USHC will report detailed information annually to federal and state taxing authorities, including all revenues and their sources, expenses, compensation paid to the five highest paid employees and contractors providing professional services, assets, fund balances, and net operating losses and gains.

Two Senate bills introduced by Senators John Burton (D-San Francisco) and Quentin Kopp (I-San Francisco) take different approaches in an attempt to reach the same goal. One of the bills would impose meetings and public records requirements when assets of a public hospital are transferred to a private corporation without giving the state control of at least half of the positions on the governing board.

The other Senate bill under consideration would impose the same requirements when more than $50 million in assets from a public hospital are transferred to a private corporation.

An Assembly bill introduced by Carol Migden (D-San Francisco) would require the legislative analyst and the Senate and Assembly budget committees to inspect the financial records of the merged organization.

Another Assembly bill introduced by Kevin Shelley (D-San Francisco) mirrors one of the Senate bills in imposing public records and open-meeting requirements on organizations formed by the transfer of more than $50 million in public assets.

All of the bills have been approved in either the Senate or the Assembly and each now moves to the opposite chamber for consideration.

In another legislative development, the future of the state's clinical teaching support payments to the University of California have been referred to the joint budget conference committee for further consideration. The UCSF Medical Center has received $11.8 million annually in clinical teaching support payments. Under the merger proposal those funds would be paid instead to the UCSF School of Medicine to support the same purposes.

With a dash of France, Leishman adds flavor to low-fat menu

You can prod Chris Leishman all you want to get her to divulge the secrets of cooking healthy food that tastes good. Fact is, she says, there aren't any.

Leishman

"If it's a basically sound recipe, you've just got to fiddle with it," says Leishman, a chef trained in the French tradition, who now carries the title of recipe development coordinator in the department of nutrition and dietetics.

Leishman came to UCSF three years ago after working at several well-known San Francisco restaurants, including Greens and the Ironwood Cafe.

"We knew Chris had a very strong culinary background and we're really happy with how well she works with our nutrition experts," says Carol Porter, associate director for nutrition services.

For her efforts to improve the flavor and healthfulness of hospital food at UCSF, Leishman has earned our THANKS.

"During the last three months, Chris has developed many new low-fat dishes for the Moffitt Cafe and for our patients. A favorite of mine is her spicy Zuni stew," Porter says.

The transition to low-fat cooking has been a challenge, Leishman says. "But there have been certain recipes that I've developed here (such as cranberry-raisin fruit bars) that I now cook for my kids at home," she says.

In addition to the hospital, Leishman also works with clinically obese patients at the Ambulatory Care Center, where she teaches low-fat cooking classes as part of a comprehensive weight reduction program.

One way to improve fat-free dishes is to strengthen the existing flavors, Leishman says, by reducing vegetables or adding a pinch of salt or sugar to bring out the natural flavors in other ingredients.

"At that point we need to check the yield for portion size, taste, cost and nutrient content," she says. "It's important that the recipe can survive under many different chefs."

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